



Over 1100 walk the “Aruba Way” for the Red Cross

Saturday, afternoon, June 10 the Colony in San Nicolas welcomed more than 1100 runners and walkers that wended their way through what was the Lago Colony to raise funds for the Aruba chapter of the International Red Cross. The Red Cross is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year, and Valero Refinery sponsored a donation from the “Aruba Way” for a badly needed new ambulance for the Red Cross by presenting them with a pledge for 90,000 Aruban florins to purchase the vehicle in a “bare bones” condition. Saturday’s Fun Run/Walk was to raise funds to help equip the ambulance properly.

“Aruba Way” is a program similar to the “United Way” in the states that was initiated by Valero Refinery Aruba with the cooperation of their employees. Each month, an amount designated by the employee is deducted from their paycheck and placed in a fund. Valero matches the donations by 50%, and last year over 500,000 Aruban Florins were accumulated for donations to worthy causes and projects.

The Fun/Run walk was organized and conducted with the cooperation of the Valero Volunteers and the Arawak Run/Walk Club. Participants made their way from beginning from the main gate to the finish line at what was the International School of Aruba until this year, and now houses executive offices of Valero. First across the finish line was Arnold Brouwer, followed quickly by Junior Rasmijn and Gino Hodge, taking first, second and third place in the men’s running division. Veteran runner Shariska Dirksz was the first woman across the line, and young Sandy Nimabar, only sixteen, came in second, with Lizayra Carlo-Ponson third amongst the women runners. Rudy Dirksz received a big cheer from onlookers as the first walker to cross the finish line.

Valero plans to present a final check to the board of directors of the Red Cross during a special event at the Cas di Cultura on June 15 for the Golden Jubilee. Saturday’s fun run walk saw record participation for such an event, and it would appear that the Red Cross will likely reach their goal for a fully equipped ambulance, with the help of the “Aruba Way” volunteers.